

Appl. No. 10/788,577
Amdt. Dated August 6, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2007

REMARKS

Amendments to Claims

Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 13, 14 and 19, canceled claims 4 and 16 without prejudice, and kept claims 3, 6, 17, 18 and 20 unchanged. Support for the amendments can be found, e.g., in Paragraphs [0024]-[0025]; and in FIGS. 1-2. No new matter is entered.

Amendments to Specification

Applicant has amended Paragraph [0024], so as to be consistent with FIG. 1, as currently amended. Such changes are further discussed below with respect to the objection to the drawings.

Applicant has amended Paragraph [0025] of the specification by clarifying the description of the principle of the light guide plate. Because the light guide plate 362 has not any function of polarization by itself, the light beams emitted from the light source 361 are just converted into planar light beams T composed of two-polarization components and are not polarized just by passing through the light guide plate 362. No new matter is entered.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show some feature of the invention specified in the claims 5 and 19.

In response, Applicant has amended FIG. 1 by incorporating the brightness enhancing film designated with reference numeral 363 and,

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likewise, has amended paragraph [0024], accordingly. Support of the amendment could be found in the original specification and claims, e.g., claims 5 and 11, as originally filed. FIG. 1 now shows the feature that the brightness enhancing film disclosed between the grooves of the light guide plate and the liquid crystal panel, set forth in claims 5 and 19, as currently amended.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the objection to the drawings is now overcome. Reconsideration and removal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 3, 6, 13-14, 17-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamaru et al., JP 2001-281654.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1 and hereby otherwise respectfully traverses the rejection thereof.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites in part:

“A liquid crystal display...and a plurality of grooves formed directly in a top surface of the light guide plate, the grooves being configured for promoting random diffraction of light, the top surface of the light guide plate being configured for emitting light composed of two polarization components orthogonal to each other ...” (Emphasis added)

Claim 13, as currently amended, recites in part:

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“A liquid crystal display comprising...a plurality of grooves formed directly in a top surface of the light guide plate, the grooves being configured for promoting random diffraction of light, the top surface of the light guide plate being configured for emitting light composed of two polarization components orthogonal to each other ...” (Emphasis added)

Claim 14, as currently amended, recites in part:

“A liquid crystal display comprising...wherein the light guide plate has a plurality of grooves defined in the top surface thereof, the grooves being configured for promoting random diffraction of light, the top surface of the light guide plate being configured for emitting light composed of two polarization components orthogonal to each other ...” (Emphasis added)

Nakamaru et al. discloses a backlight module having a light guide plate 101, a plurality of fine projecting and recessing parts 102 formed on a top surface of the light guide plate 101, and a quarter-wave plate 109. From the page of “PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN” of JP 2001-281654, we can see that the projecting and recessing parts 102 have a polarized light separation function. As shown in FIG. 1 of Nakamaru et al, the light emitting from the top surface of the light guide plate 101 has only one polarization component due to the polarized function of the projecting and recessing parts 102. That is, Nakamaru et al. fails to disclose or suggest that the top surface of the light guide plate being configured for emitting light composed of two polarization components orthogonal to each other, as set forth in claims 1, 13 and 14, as currently amended.

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Furthermore, each of claims 1, 13, and 14, as amended, require a quarter-wave plate, a light guide plate, and a reflective light polarizer, used in combination. Nakamura et al. discloses the use of the fine projecting and recessing parts 102 on the top surface of the light guide plate 101 for the purpose of a reflective light polarizer, in the inventive embodiment, negating the need for a further such polarizer element. Also, none of the prior art embodiments disclose or suggest the use of a quarter-wave plate, and Nakamura et al., as a whole, teaches away from the use of the prior art embodiments. Thus, no single embodiment of Nakamura et al. discloses or suggests the combined use of a quarter-wave plate, a light guide plate, and a reflective light polarizer, as per amended claims 1, 13, and 14. Further, while the embodiments of Nakamura et al. may, for the sake of argument, disclose or suggest the individual elements provided in claim 1, 13, and 14, as amended, Nakamura et al., more importantly, fails to teach or suggest the particular combination of elements, as set forth in amended claim 1, 13, and 14.

Therefore, Nakamura et al. fails to disclose or suggest the present liquid crystal display, as set forth in claims 1, 13, or 14, as currently amended. Applicant submits that claims 1, 13, and 14, as currently amended, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 6, 17-18 and 20 each directly or indirectly depend from one of now-allowable claims 1, 13, and 14, and, therefore, should also be allowable.

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Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 4-5, 16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamaru et al., JP 2001-281654, in view of Applicant's admitted prior art, FIG. 5.

Claims 4 and 16 are canceled. The rejection is now moot.

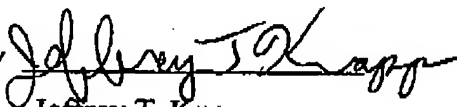
Claims 5 and 19 each directly or indirectly depend from one of independent claims 1 and 13, which should be allowable as discussed above, and, therefore, should also be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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